What is cloud computing?

Cloud computing is the on-demand delivery of IT resources over the Internet with pay-as-you-go pricing. Instead of buying, owning, and maintaining physical data centers and servers, you can access technology services, such as computing power, storage, and databases, on an as-needed basis from a cloud provider like Amazon Web Services (AWS).Microsoft Azure (Azure) Google GCP(Google Cloud Platform)Etc

Benefits of Cloud Computing:



1) Back-up and restore data

Once the data is stored in the cloud, it is easier to get back-up and restore that data using the cloud.

2) Improved collaboration

Cloud applications improve collaboration by allowing groups of people to quickly and easily share information in the cloud via shared storage.

3) Excellent accessibility

Cloud allows us to quickly and easily access store information anywhere, anytime in the whole world, using an internet connection. An internet cloud infrastructure increases organization productivity and efficiency by ensuring that our data is always accessible.

4) Low maintenance cost

Cloud computing reduces both hardware and software maintenance costs for organizations.

5) Mobility

Cloud computing allows us to easily access all cloud data via mobile.

6) IServices in the pay-per-use model

Cloud computing offers Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) to the users for access services on the cloud and pays the charges as per the usage of service.

7) Unlimited storage capacity

Cloud offers us a huge amount of storing capacity for storing our important data such as documents, images, audio, video, etc. in one place.

8) Data security

Data security is one of the biggest advantages of cloud computing. Cloud offers many advanced features related to security and ensures that data is securely stored and handled.

Disadvantages of Cloud Computing

A list of the disadvantage of cloud computing is given below -

1) Internet Connectivity

As you know, in cloud computing, every data (image, audio, video, etc.) is stored on the cloud, and we access these data through the cloud by using the internet connection. If you do not have good internet connectivity, you cannot access these data. However, we have no any other way to access data from the cloud.

2) Vendor lock-in

Vendor lock-in is the biggest disadvantage of cloud computing. Organizations may face problems when transferring their services from one vendor to another. As different vendors provide different platforms, that can cause difficulty moving from one cloud to another.

3) Limited Control

As we know, cloud infrastructure is completely owned, managed, and monitored by the service provider, so the cloud users have less control over the function and execution of services within a cloud infrastructure.

4) Security

Although cloud service providers implement the best security standards to store important information. But, before adopting cloud technology, you should be aware that you will be sending all your organization's sensitive information to a third party, i.e., a cloud computing service provider. While sending the data on the cloud, there may be a chance that your organization's information is hacked by Hackers.

Cloud Computing Architecture

As we know, cloud computing technology is used by both small and large organizations to **store the information** in cloud and **access** it from anywhere at anytime using the internet connection.

Cloud computing architecture is a combination of **service-oriented architecture** and **event-driven architecture**.

Cloud computing architecture is divided into the following two parts -

* Front End
* Back End

The below diagram shows the architecture of cloud computing -



Front End

The front end is used by the client. It contains client-side interfaces and applications that are required to access the cloud computing platforms. The front end includes web servers (including Chrome, Firefox, internet explorer, etc.), thin & fat clients, tablets, and mobile devices.

Back End

The back end is used by the service provider. It manages all the resources that are required to provide cloud computing services. It includes a huge amount of data storage, security mechanism, virtual machines, deploying models, servers, traffic control mechanisms, etc.

*Note: Both front end and back end are connected to others through a network, generally using the internet connection.*

Components of Cloud Computing Architecture

There are the following components of cloud computing architecture -

**1. Client Infrastructure**

Client Infrastructure is a Front end component. It provides GUI (Graphical User Interface)  to interact with the cloud.

**2. Application**

The application may be any software or platform that a client wants to access.

**3. Service**

A Cloud Services manages that which type of service you access according to the client’s requirement.

Cloud computing offers the following three type of services:



**i. Software as a Service (SaaS) –**It is also known as **cloud application services**. Mostly, SaaS applications run directly through the web browser means we do not require to download and install these applications. Some important example of SaaS is given below –

**Example:** Google Apps, Salesforce Dropbox, Slack, Hubspot, Cisco WebEx.

**ii. Platform as a Service (PaaS) –** It is also known as **cloud platform** **services**. It is quite similar to SaaS, but the difference is that PaaS provides a platform for software creation, but using SaaS, we can access software over the internet without the need of any platform.

**Example:** Windows Azure, Force.com, Magento Commerce Cloud, OpenShift.

**iii. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) –**It is also known as **cloud infrastructure services**. It is responsible for managing applications data, middleware, and runtime environments.

**Example:** Amazon Web Services (AWS) EC2, Google Compute Engine (GCE), Cisco Metapod.

**4. Runtime Cloud**

Runtime Cloud provides the **execution and runtime environment** to the virtual machines.

**5. Storage**

Storage is one of the most important components of cloud computing. It provides a huge amount of storage capacity in the cloud to store and manage data.

**6. Infrastructure**

It provides services on the **host level**, **application level**, and **network level**. Cloud infrastructure includes hardware and software components such as servers, storage, network devices, virtualization software, and other storage resources that are needed to support the cloud computing model.

**7. Management**

Management is used to manage components such as application, service, runtime cloud, storage, infrastructure, and other security issues in the backend and establish coordination between them.

**8. Security**

Security is an in-built back end component of cloud computing. It implements a security mechanism in the back end.

**9. Internet**

The Internet is medium through which front end and back end can interact and communicate with each other.

Types of Cloud

There are the following 4 types of cloud that you can deploy according to the organization's needs-



* [**Public Cloud**](https://www.javatpoint.com/types-of-cloud)
* [**Private Cloud**](https://www.javatpoint.com/types-of-cloud)
* [**Hybrid Cloud**](https://www.javatpoint.com/types-of-cloud)
* [**Community Cloud**](https://www.javatpoint.com/types-of-cloud)

Public Cloud

Public cloud is **open to all** to store and access information via the Internet using the pay-per-usage method.

In public cloud, computing resources are managed and operated by the Cloud Service Provider (CSP).

**Example:** Amazon elastic compute cloud (EC2), IBM SmartCloud Enterprise, Microsoft, Google App Engine, Windows Azure Services Platform.



Advantages of Public Cloud

There are the following advantages of Public Cloud -

* Public cloud is owned at a lower cost than the private and hybrid cloud.
* Public cloud is maintained by the cloud service provider, so do not need to worry about the maintenance.
* Public cloud is easier to integrate. Hence it offers a better flexibility approach to consumers.
* Public cloud is location independent because its services are delivered through the internet.
* Public cloud is highly scalable as per the requirement of computing resources.
* It is accessible by the general public, so there is no limit to the number of users.

Disadvantages of Public Cloud

* Public Cloud is less secure because resources are shared publicly.
* Performance depends upon the high-speed internet network link to the cloud provider.
* The Client has no control of data.

**To Read More** [**Click Here**](https://www.javatpoint.com/public-cloud)

Private Cloud

Private cloud is also known as an **internal cloud** or **corporate cloud**. It is used by organizations to build and manage their own data centers internally or by the third party. It can be deployed using Opensource tools such as Openstack and Eucalyptus.

Based on the location and management, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) divide private cloud into the following two parts-

* On-premise private cloud
* Outsourced private cloud

Advantages of Private Cloud

There are the following advantages of the Private Cloud -

* Private cloud provides a high level of security and privacy to the users.
* Private cloud offers better performance with improved speed and space capacity.
* It allows the IT team to quickly allocate and deliver on-demand IT resources.
* The organization has full control over the cloud because it is managed by the organization itself. So, there is no need for the organization to depends on anybody.
* It is suitable for organizations that require a separate cloud for their personal use and data security is the first priority.

Disadvantages of Private Cloud

* Skilled people are required to manage and operate cloud services.
* Private cloud is accessible within the organization, so the area of operations is limited.
* Private cloud is not suitable for organizations that have a high user base, and organizations that do not have the prebuilt infrastructure, sufficient manpower to maintain and manage the cloud.

**To Read More** [**Click Here**](https://www.javatpoint.com/private-cloud)

Hybrid Cloud

Hybrid Cloud is a combination of the public cloud and the private cloud. we can say:

***Hybrid Cloud = Public Cloud + Private Cloud***

Hybrid cloud is partially secure because the services which are running on the public cloud can be accessed by anyone, while the services which are running on a private cloud can be accessed only by the organization's users.

**Example:** Google Application Suite (Gmail, Google Apps, and Google Drive), Office 365 (MS Office on the Web and One Drive), Amazon Web Services.



Advantages of Hybrid Cloud

There are the following advantages of Hybrid Cloud -

* Hybrid cloud is suitable for organizations that require more security than the public cloud.
* Hybrid cloud helps you to deliver new products and services more quickly.
* Hybrid cloud provides an excellent way to reduce the risk.
* Hybrid cloud offers flexible resources because of the public cloud and secure resources because of the private cloud.

Disadvantages of Hybrid Cloud

* In Hybrid Cloud, security feature is not as good as the private cloud.
* Managing a hybrid cloud is complex because it is difficult to manage more than one type of deployment model.
* In the hybrid cloud, the reliability of the services depends on cloud service providers.

**To Read More** [**Click Here**](https://www.javatpoint.com/hybrid-cloud)

Community Cloud

Community cloud allows systems and services to be accessible by a group of several organizations to share the information between the organization and a specific community. It is owned, managed, and operated by one or more organizations in the community, a third party, or a combination of them.

**Example:** Health Care community cloud



Advantages of Community Cloud

There are the following advantages of Community Cloud -

* Community cloud is cost-effective because the whole cloud is being shared by several organizations or communities.
* Community cloud is suitable for organizations that want to have a collaborative cloud with more security features than the public cloud.
* It provides better security than the public cloud.
* It provdes collaborative and distributive environment.
* Community cloud allows us to share cloud resources, infrastructure, and other capabilities among various organizations.

Disadvantages of Community Cloud

* Community cloud is not a good choice for every organization.
* Security features are not as good as the private cloud.
* It is not suitable if there is no collaboration.
* The fixed amount of data storage and bandwidth is shared among all community members.

**To Read More** [**Click Here**](https://www.javatpoint.com/community-cloud)

Difference between public cloud, private cloud, hybrid cloud, and community cloud -

The below table shows the difference between public cloud, private cloud, hybrid cloud, and community cloud.



**AWS CLOUD COMPUTING BASICS**